DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 481 241 EA 032 455

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TITLE	What We Know About: Culture and Learning.
INSTITUTION	Educational Research Service, Arlington, VA.
ISBN	ISBN-1-931762-10-4
PUB DATE	2003-00-00
NOTE	92p.; Written with assistance of Nancy Protheroe.
AVAILABLE FROM	Educational Research Service, 2000 Clarendon Boulevard, Arlington, VA 22201-2908 (Stock no. 0491: base price, $20; comprehensive subscriber, $9; individual subscriber, $13.50). Tel: 703-243-2100; Tel: 800-791-9308 (Toll Free); Fax: 703-243-1985; Fax: 800-791-9309 (Toll Free); e-mail: ers@ers.org; Web site: http:// www.ers.org.
PUB TYPE	Books (010) -- Guides - Non-Classroom (055) -- Information Analyses (070)
EDRS PRICE	Document Not Available From EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS	*Classroom Environment; *Cognitive Processes; Cognitive Style; *Cultural Differences; *Cultural Influences; *Cultural Relevance; Culture Conflict; Educational Environment; Elementary Secondary Education; Family Influence; Instructional Effectiveness; Learning Experience; Learning Modalities; Student Behavior; *Student Diversity; Teacher Effectiveness; Teacher Student Relationship; Teaching Methods; Teaching Styles
IDENTIFIERS	Cultural Sensitivity; Culturally Different Students

ABSTRACT

This publication presents reasons why attention to culture and learning is important in schools. It examines the relationship between culture and learning, and discusses how conflicts between the culture of the home and that of the typical classroom hinder the educational process for many children. It reviews examples of culturally sensitive instructional practices and describes the considerations that teachers and administrators need to take into account as they attempt to meet the needs of a student population that is growing more culturally diverse. The publication addresses the questions and issues of cultural diversity in the classroom through a review of the literature on cultural differences and their impact on learning and effective teaching. The research profiled here details ways that teachers can improve student learning by becoming aware of cultural differences and employing culturally sensitive instructional methods. The term "culture," as it is used in this book, refers to ways of being, knowing, and doing. The term, as used here, does not address what students learn because it is assumed that high standards are applied to all students; it examines how students learn, regardless of the subject or content area being taught. (WFA)

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